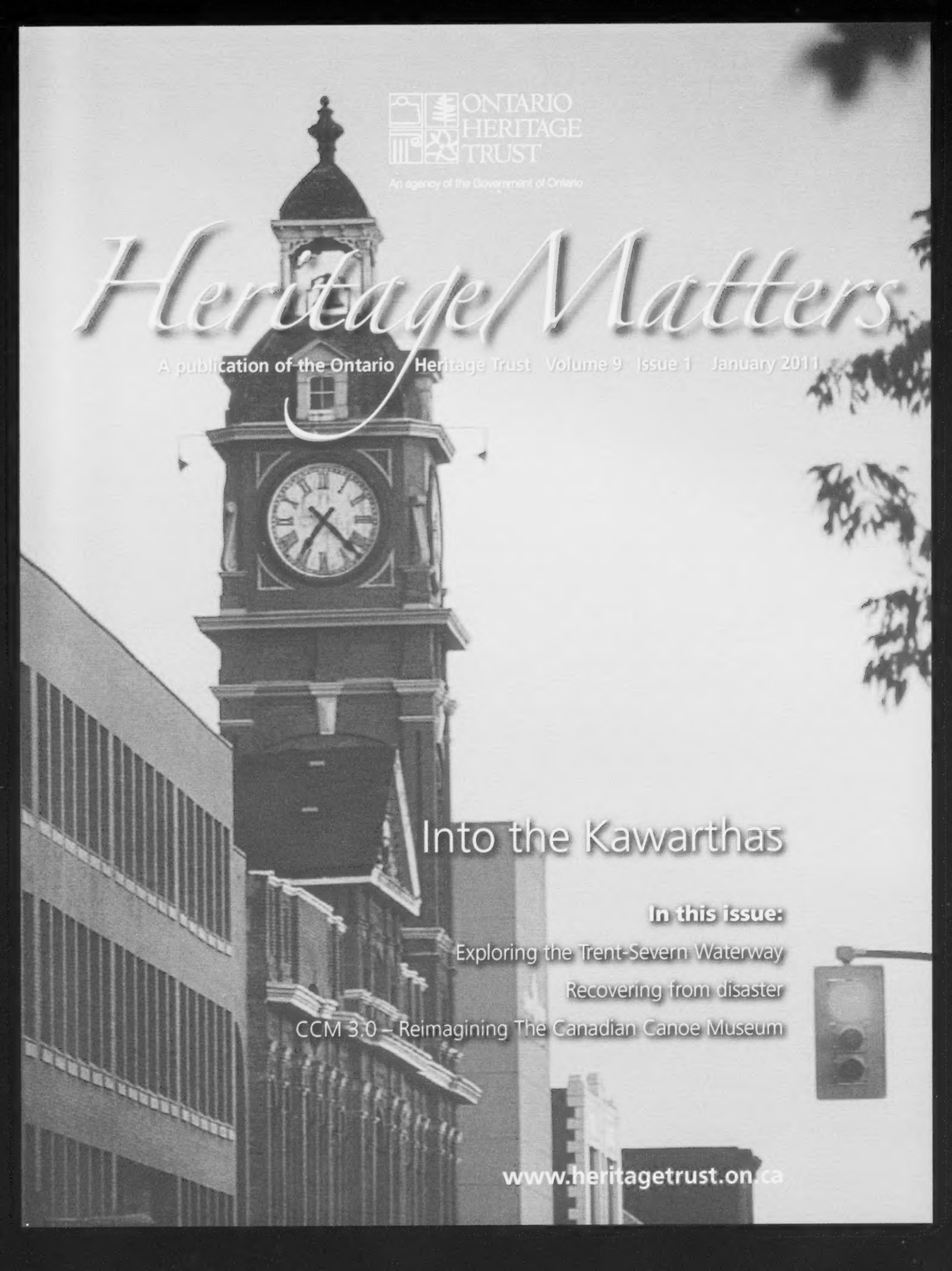

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An agency of the Government of Ontario

Heritage Matters

A publication of the Ontario Heritage Trust Volume 9 Issue 1 January 2011

Into the Kawarthas

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A message from the Chairman

February 21 to 27, 2011, is the week set aside in Ontario for the celebration of Heritage Week. As Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust and as a longtime resident of Peterborough, which has been my home since I moved here as the founding President of Trent University nearly 50 years ago, I am very pleased that the Trust will be launching the celebrations here this year.

Across the province, there is increased recognition that "heritage" cannot be broken down into isolated component parts. Built, natural and cultural heritage are not three separate entities, but integral parts of each other. Heritage includes, as well, our intangible legacy of customs, values, knowledge and beliefs. This recognition of the integrated nature of heritage is being embraced by citizens and local governments across the province, and indeed the country, as they draw upon these creative forces to stimulate the economy, foster innovation and enhance the quality of life within their communities.

Our heritage is the sum of all we have and are, of the total historical experience of our society to this moment. I urge you to celebrate the heritage of your community, not only in the week formally set aside in February, but throughout the entire year.

Tom Symons

Thomas H.B. Symons, CC, O.Ont, FRSC, LLD

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Cover: Peterborough's Market Hall on George Street at sunset. Photo courtesy of the Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation.

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Ontario

Recognizing Ontario's Heritage Champions:

A profile of two Ontario communities

By Amber Bondy and Catrina Colme

Students from Port Perry High School receive the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award, presented February 2010

Oakville Mayor Rob Burton (left) and Richard Moorhouse, Executive Director of the Ontario Heritage Trust

Each year, communities across Ontario work with the Trust to celebrate local volunteers through our Heritage Community Recognition, Young Heritage Leaders and Community Leadership programs, as well as the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards. The Township of Scugog and the Town of Oakville are two communities that have been proudly celebrating heritage heroes through these programs over the past decade.

Scugog has a strong record of recognizing youth through the Young Heritage Leaders program. Since 2004, over 380 young people from Scugog have received awards – including two groups from Port Perry High School who won Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards for Youth Achievement in 2007 and 2009.

Scugog has also consistently recognized adult volunteers through the Heritage Community Recognition Program. "The Township of Scugog residents have a significant interest in the preservation of heritage, and place a high value on our heritage resources," said Craig Belfry, Manager of Recreation and Culture at the Township of Scugog. "These awards have annually acknowledged, recognized, and rewarded the hard work of over 100 residents in the Township of Scugog and continue to encourage volunteerism to preserve and promote our heritage in Scugog and throughout Ontario."

Oakville has recognized over 50 volunteers through the Trust's recognition programs, and in 2009, the town received the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Community Leadership, for exemplary leadership in conservation.

"Heritage volunteers help to preserve and celebrate the history of our community, and it's important that we acknowledge their valuable contribution," said Mayor Rob Burton. "Oakville heritage volunteers played an integral role in helping us win the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Community Leadership in 2009 and the Heritage Canada Foundation's Prince of Wales Prize in 2010. As role models, these volunteers inspire others to get involved in our community and add a greater sense of pride in making Oakville the most livable town in Canada."

We salute Scugog and Oakville, as well as all the other communities across Ontario working to foster volunteerism and promote heritage conservation.

To learn more about how to submit a nomination to the Trust's recognition programs, visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca, call 416-314-4907 or email amber.bondy@heritagetrust.on.ca.

Amber Bondy is a Community Programs Officer at the Ontario Heritage Trust and Catrina Colme is a Senior Marketing and Communications Specialist at the Trust.

Ten Years of Opening Doors

By Mike Sawchuck

When Doors Open Ontario was launched by the Ontario Heritage Trust in 2002, there was great excitement among the heritage community about the program's potential to raise awareness of conservation and tourism on a provincial scale. But nobody could have expected the level of success that has been achieved. Doors Open Ontario has developed into the province's main vehicle for heritage tourism and has inspired nearly four million visits to important natural and cultural sites. It has provided a forum for communities to showcase their unique character and identity, and in the process, has helped to bolster civic pride and reestablish the importance of the physical landscape in maintaining a strong sense of community. There is no truer representation of Ontario's rich and varied heritage than the sites that have collectively formed the Doors Open Ontario program.

As we prepare for our 10th season, our expectations are higher than ever! This notable and exciting anniversary will feature a retrospective design of the Doors Open Ontario guide that will contain interesting facts from the past and a special 10th Anniversary cover, a digital scrapbook displaying photographs and testimonials from Doors Open Ontario participants, interactive online surveys where visitors can vote for their favourite sites and a digital photo contest where participants can share snapshots of memorable sites and events.

The Doors Open Ontario program has more than tripled in size since it was launched, growing from 17 events in its inaugural year to a record high 55 events in 2010. In total, there have been 365 individual events over the past nine years, incorporating more than 4,000 different sites of historical, architectural, natural or cultural significance. With several new communities planning to join for the first time in 2011, the Trust expects continued growth well into the program's second decade. Eighty-seven per cent of Ontario residents already live within a Doors Open Ontario community, and by the end of 2011, there will have been Doors Open Ontario events in 48 of the province's 50 largest municipalities.

Doors Open Ontario 2011 gets underway in April and events will continue through the spring, summer and early autumn. To discover which events are happening near you, visit www.doorsopenontario.on.ca or call 1-800-ONTARIO (1-800-668-2746) for your free guide.

Mike Sawchuck is a Community Programs Officer at the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Building conservation awareness at Doors Open Clarington 2010, Camp 30 – a Second World War prisoner of war camp

Peterborough's Living History Museum

By Barb McIntosh

Sir Sandford Fleming is best known for his major railway building accomplishments on the Intercolonial, linking central Canada and Halifax, and the Canadian Pacific Railways to the west coast. Fleming was also known for many other innovations: the design of Canada's first adhesive postage stamp, the three-penny Beaver; promotion of the Pacific Cable; and his world renown as the inventor of Standard Time.

Hutchison House

Cooking in the old kitchen

Junior volunteers in the garden at Hutchison House

Dr. John Hutchison

Hutchison House holds a special place in the social history of Peterborough.

Local volunteers built the house in 1836 to persuade one of their first doctors to stay in the settlement. Over a century and a half later, another group of dedicated volunteers contributes their time and skills to operate the house as a living history museum.

In 1830, Scottish immigrant Dr. John Hutchison set up his medical practice in the new village of Peterborough. For the first few years, he rented a small cottage, but by 1836, his growing family needed more room. With no suitable housing available, the doctor contemplated moving to Toronto. The local citizens donated their skills and most of the building materials to construct a limestone house on an acre of land at the edge of the village. In 1837, the Hutchisons moved into their new home.

It was not a grand house but it was far more comfortable than the log cabins and small frame structures that housed most of the villagers. Now located in the downtown core, Hutchison House is one of the oldest stone houses still standing in the city.

Sir Sandford Fleming, a second cousin of Dr. Hutchison, considered the house his home for two years after arriving from Scotland in 1845 at age 18. He drew the first map of Peterborough in 1846 and sold lithographed copies to earn his keep. While living with the Hutchisons, he became friends with their neighbour, James Hall, Peterborough's Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), who later helped him establish his illustrious career. In 1855, he returned to Peterborough to marry Hall's daughter Jeanie. Sandford's early diaries provide a wealth of detail about early Peterborough, the Hutchison's family life and the doctor's journeys about the countryside visiting patients.

Sadly, the popular doctor died in the 1847 typhus epidemic that swept across Upper Canada. In 1851, the house was sold to James Harvey, a prominent local businessman, who renovated the upstairs and built a brick Victorian addition at the back. The house remained in the Harvey family until 1969, when it was bequeathed to the Peterborough Historical Society by Harvey's great-great granddaughter.

In the 1970s, the original stone house was carefully restored under the direction of Peter Stokes, a restoration architect. It opened as Hutchison House Living Museum in 1978.

Today, over 7,000 people visit the museum and participate in its programs annually.

Of special interest is the doctor's study that features a collection of surgical instruments and other 19th-century medical tools. The period furnishings are typical examples of what would have been found in a rural doctor's office.

The Victorian parlour is set for tea as it might have been when Mrs. Hutchison entertained guests, including pioneer author Catharine Parr Traill, who was a patient of Hutchison and a family friend.

A bedroom is devoted to Sir Sandford Fleming's stay at the house. On display is one of his original 1846 maps of Peterborough and his design for a type of roller blade that proved to be before its time.

On the ground floor, the pioneer kitchen was fully restored to its original stone walls and beamed ceiling. It contains a collection of pioneer furniture and early kitchen utensils. During restoration, the old stone hearth was uncovered and is now used by volunteers for demonstrations of cooking in the 1800s.

While the old kitchen and main-floor rooms reflect the lifestyle of the Hutchison family in the 1840s, the upper floor, which would have been just a bare attic bedroom for the Hutchison boys, shows the renovations made by the Harveys, with furnishings that would have been acquired by a well-to-do family in the 1860s.

Today, Hutchison House is owned and operated by the Peterborough Historical Society. Costumed volunteers provide opportunities to explore early life in the city, giving guided tours of the museum, conducting workshops on pioneer cooking and heritage crafts and maintaining the heritage gardens.

Each year, the public is invited to Hogmanay, a traditional Scottish New Year's Day party complete with pipers, dancing and haggis. Visitors enjoy Scottish teas during the summer, and heritage lunches in front of the open hearth during the winter months. The museum also offers a wide range of educational programs for school children, using the house and its collection to make history come alive.

For more information, visit:
www.hutchisonhouse.ca.

Barb McIntosh is a Board member of the Peterborough Historical Society.

A provincial plaque entitled "The Hutchison House, 1837" stands on the grounds of the museum. There are also two provincial plaques commemorating Sir Sandford Fleming – the first at Fleming Park in Peterborough, while the other stands at the War Memorial Gardens in Kirkcaldy, Fifeshire, Scotland. The latter is one of the Ontario Heritage Trust's 22 international provincial plaques.

CCM 3.0 REIMAGINING THE CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM

By James Raffan

A decade has passed since the permanent exhibits at The Canadian Canoe Museum (CCM) were opened to great acclaim. Funded with help from the federal Millennium Program, built by dedicated staff and volunteers, and featuring 117 canoes (about one-fifth of the growing collection), these superb exhibits have been enjoyed by more than a 250,000 visitors since 2000.

"All good," says General Manager John Summers, "but all exhibits have a shelf life. Ours are approaching their best before date. That's why we need to be exploring ways to refresh our message and the ways in which we engage the public imagination."

Since his arrival in August 2008, Summers has led the museum's transformation. His popular Clutter Reduction Aids Productivity (CRAP) program began in the administration hallway with enthusiastic staff "repurposing" furniture and files dating back to the days when the Outboard Marine Corporation occupied what is now the Weston Exhibit Centre. House-cleaning moved from the hall to accounting, budgeting, canoe storage, membership communications, website and volunteer recognition.

Keeping the museum's mandate front and centre, Summers has inspired the CCM community to reimagine what the museum is and could be.

"If the Kanawa International Museum at Camp Kandalore was CCM 1.0, then this is CCM 2.0," said Summers. "Our next incarnation, which is what we're working toward now, is CCM 3.0. It's all about reaching out with a new story for the museum."

That new story is just four words that became the title of a new strategic plan. "Onto the National Stage" embodies the spirit of renewal and signals the collective drive to find ways to expand the organization and make it relevant and exciting to all who visit, whether virtually or in person. The new 10-year plan details two main priorities, both predicated on partnerships with government and the private sector and timed to coincide with significant events such as the 400th anniversary of Champlain's Trent-Severn travels in 2015 and Canada's Sesquicentennial in 2017.

The first priority is making the organization strong and sustainable – to strengthen and secure all revenue streams (and find new ones where possible) and to build a robust local, regional and national constituency. This can be accomplished through innovative programming, creative new exhibits, initiatives to boost membership and inclusive citizen-driven programs like National Canoe Day.

The second priority – the dream – is to move the museum to a new facility on the water in downtown Peterborough. This will connect the canoes to Canada's waterways. It will provide the collection and exhibits with the state-of-the-art environmental controls that they do not currently enjoy. Finally, this move will create a national canoe centre and cultural hub in a multi-purpose, marquee tourist attraction. This economic driver for the Kawartha Region will feed and nurture canoe interests across the country and beyond.

To learn more about The Canadian Canoe Museum or to request a copy of its new strategic plan, visit www.canoemuseum.ca.

James Raffan is the Executive Director of The Canadian Canoe Museum.

Red Chestnut Prospector canoe of legendary canoeist, author and filmmaker Bill Mason (1929-1988)
Photo courtesy of John Summers, Canadian Canoe Museum

INTO THE KAWARTHAS

By Michael Eamon

Compass Rose on floor in front foyer of Peterborough City Hall
Photo: Michael Eamon

Terrazzo map of Peterborough County in front foyer of Peterborough City Hall
Photo: Heritage Preservation Office, Arts, Culture and Heritage Division, City of Peterborough

When visitors first enter Peterborough's stately city hall, they should look down. Inspired by the City Beautiful Movement – active in Canada from 1893 to 1930 – the exterior is designed so that passersby look up, towards the building's stylized columns, clock tower and cupola. Once inside, however, looking down brings something unexpected into focus – a carefully crafted map of Peterborough County and the surrounding area.

The City of Peterborough is known as the gateway to the Kawarthas (a word derived from the Anishinaabe "land of reflections" or "shining waters") and the impressive terrazzo floor offers a glimpse of the many rivers, lakes and communities that surround the city and comprise the county's 3,800 square kilometres.

To the north of Peterborough County are dramatic outcroppings of the Precambrian rock punctuating a landscape of mixed pine, birch and maple forests – where the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site can be found. Expanded in 2003, this provincial preserve comprises almost 10 per cent of the county's total area. Farther to the south, the expanse of Canadian Shield gives way to drumlins, moraines and eskers forged at the end of the last ice age and eventually rich, rolling agricultural plains that were once obscured at the bottom of prehistoric lakes. Peterborough County is at the heart of an ancient transport network of rivers and lakes and portages. Gradually expanded and connected through manmade canals in the 19th and early 20th centuries, this system became the Trent-Severn Waterway, a National Historic Site spanning 386 kilometres from Trenton on Lake Ontario to Port Severn on the shores of Georgian Bay.

In 1615, when Samuel de Champlain explored the region, he remarked on its attractiveness. The beauty of Peterborough County remains vital today as tourism continues to contribute to the region's economy. Before the mid-20th century, proliferation of the automobile and steamers – such as the Lintonia and the Empress that plied the waters between Lakefield and Young's Point – were common to the vacation experience in the county. Today, as 100 years ago, names such as Buckhorn, Burleigh Falls and Bobcaygeon inspire romantic visions of blue lakes, sunny days and long summer evenings at the cottage.

Long before the arrival of Champlain, this land of shining waters was home to countless generations of First Nations peoples who lived along its shores. In the northeast corner of Peterborough County, a vein of white marble juts from the granite. Petroglyphs carved into this stone depict both realistic and abstracted animal and human forms, and date to between AD 900 and ▶

Petroglyphs Visitor Centre, Petroglyph Provincial Park
© Ontario Parks

Peterborough Lift Lock National Historic Site of Canada
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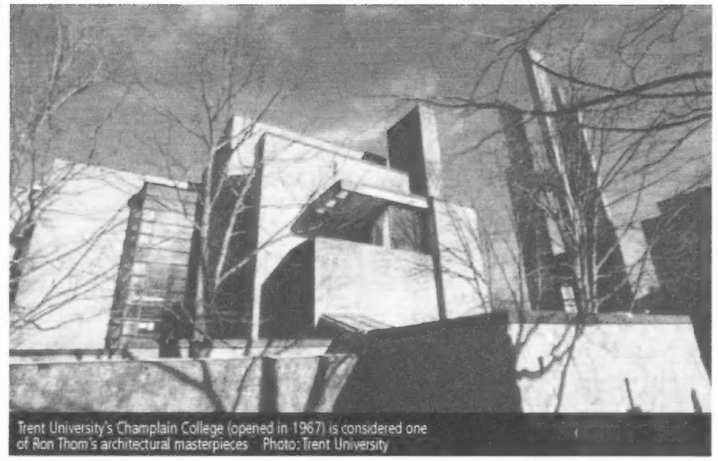


Trent University's Champlain College (opened in 1967) is considered one of Ron Thom's architectural masterpieces Photo: Trent University

1400. The area of the petroglyphs, preserved as a provincial park, is a sacred space to the Anishinabek and is also commemorated as a National Historic Site for its lasting cultural significance.

In the southern portion of the county on the shores of Rice Lake, another important site of First Nations heritage can be found. Believed to be even older in origin than the petroglyphs, the nine burial mounds and surrounding area have provided archaeologists a unique glimpse at life in the region almost 2,000 years ago. The large serpentine mound is considered to be the only of one of its type in Canada. Of great spiritual value to the local Anishinabek people who care for the site, Serpent Mounds has also been recognized provincially and federally for its historical importance.

A third prehistoric site in the region is the Brock Street Burial found in downtown Peterborough. Believed to be on the crest of the traditional portage route between Chemong Lake and Little Lake, human remains and burial goods were found here in 1960 and again in 2005. All these sites attest to the long history of human habitation in the region, a fact that is celebrated every June with the Ode'min Giizis, or Strawberry Moon festival, which commemorates the Peterborough area as a traditional gathering place for the exchange of knowledge, ideas and friendship.

The first wave of European settlement to what was considered the "back townships" of the Newcastle District of Upper Canada began in 1818. Smith Township was initially surveyed and settled, soon followed by the townships of Otonabee and North Monaghan. Land and lumber proved to be the biggest draws to the region in the 19th century. In 1819, an Edinburgh-born miller named Adam Scott settled in a newly surveyed town and built a grist mill the following year. Initially known as Scott's Plains, the settlement would later become known as Peterborough in honour of the local member of legislative council and commissioner of Crown Lands, Peter Robinson. In 1825, Robinson directed the immigration of 2,000 Irish settlers. This British government-sponsored endeavour provided a critical mass of farmers to bolster settlement and imprinted a distinctively Irish nature to the region, as well as a rich cultural heritage of dance, music and custom that is still celebrated in Peterborough today.

These early days of settlement in Peterborough County are well chronicled in diaries and published accounts of its inhabitants. Sisters Susanna Moodie and Catharine Parr Traill – accustomed to more refined English surroundings – wrote both of the rugged beauty and endless hardships of life in the bush, as did other early settlers such as Anne Langdon and Frances Stewart. These pioneer women, among others, offered early accounts of Canada as a wilderness, a metaphor that continues to resonate with Canadians and throughout the world. Early physician John Hutchison also knew well of the hardships of those early days of European settlement. His Peterborough home is preserved and operated by the Peterborough Historical Society as a testament to his pioneering efforts in medicine. It was also the Peterborough residence of his nephew Sir Sandford Fleming, who lived there before gaining worldwide recognition as an engineer and for his proposal of a system of Standard Time.

In addition to the land, early settlers were drawn to the region by its rich resources of timber and minerals. Peterborough County became synonymous with the production of lumber in the 19th century, fuelling the growth of the region as well as nearby settlements along Lake Ontario and Toronto. By the turn of the 20th century, the timber trade was eclipsed by other industry. Today, the spaces that were once occupied by lumber yards, timber sluices and log jams are now replaced by residential subdivisions, cottages and recreational boaters. Although not as famous as its timber industry, iron mining also factored in Peterborough County's development. Traces of once-prosperous communities can still be seen today in ghost towns such as Blairton and Nephton, whose rise and eventual fall were inescapably linked to the minerals of the Canadian Shield.

The Canadian Shield also offered the aggregate necessary to the production of concrete. The village of Lakefield became renowned for its production of the material, with the towering smokestack of one of its largest concrete factories being one of the final contemporary remnants of this once-lucrative trade. In 1904, Lock 21 – better known as the Peterborough Lift Lock – opened on the Trent Canal. One of the largest monolithic concrete structures in the world when poured, it continues to impress visitors and retains the title of the tallest hydraulic lift lock in the world. Over a drumlin known as Armour Hill and across the neighbourhood of East City is the Hunter Street Bridge. At the time of its construction in 1920, its 73.1-metre concrete span was the largest in Canada.

From the Hunter Street Bridge, the convergence of new and old in Peterborough can be most clearly seen. To the west is the bustling downtown that

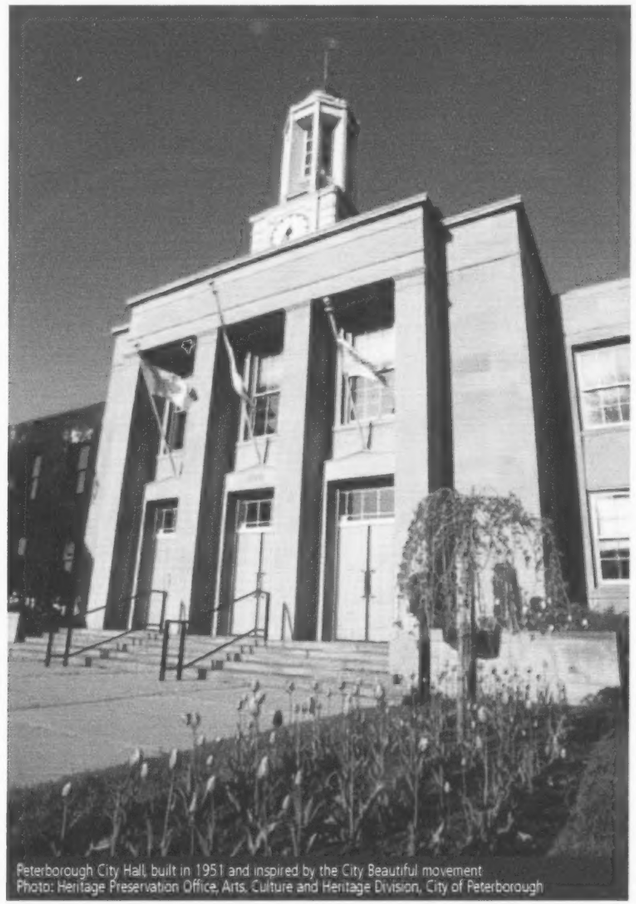
retains its historical character with its rows of late-19th-century commercial blocks, including the impressive Second Empire-inspired Morrow Building, built as a post office around 1878. Nearby is the city hall, flanked by several Romanesque Revival buildings, such as the Armouries, former YMCA and Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational School. At the centre of the adjacent Confederation Square is the war memorial, with bronze sculptures by Walter Seymour Allward, known for his design of Canada's Vimy Memorial in France. Farther down George Street in the heart of the historic downtown is Market Hall, another impressive example of the city's built heritage. Saved from demolition in the 1970s, it is now in the final stages of a multimillion dollar renovation that has restored its exterior façades, roof and distinctive clock tower.

Flowing beneath the Hunter Street Bridge is the swift Otonabee River that led to Peterborough's nickname as the "Electric City" in the early days of hydro generation. At the turn of the 20th century, many industries were attracted by the region's accessible hydro as well as its water and rail transportation network – including Canadian General Electric, Quaker Oats, Westclox and Peterborough Canoe and Outboard Marine (now home to The Canadian Canoe Museum).

Trent University and Sir Sandford Fleming College, opened in 1964 and 1967 respectively, have attracted thousands of students to the region. In particular, Ron Thom's central design for Trent University in concrete, rock and wood emulates Peterborough County's rugged landscape and is a jewel of modern architecture on the Otonabee.

The dramatic mix of land, water, rock and forest has attracted, delighted, challenged and grounded the inhabitants of Peterborough County for millennia. In so doing, a rich historical legacy remains – a legacy that local heritage societies, museums, archives and concerned individuals remain ever vigilant in their work to preserve. From treetops to drumlins, from concrete bridges and locks to the shoreline, streets and even the floor of city hall, the natural beauty and cultural heritage of Peterborough County is everywhere one looks.

Michael Eamon is a historian who has studied and worked in England and throughout Eastern Ontario. Formerly a manager at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa, he now lives in Peterborough with his wife and two sons.



Peterborough City Hall, built in 1951 and inspired by the City Beautiful movement
Photo: Heritage Preservation Office, Arts, Culture and Heritage Division, City of Peterborough

Doris McCarthy's Fool's Paradise will inspire future generations of artists

By Catrina Colme

Doris McCarthy at Fool's Paradise, May 2005
Photo: David Lee

> "In giving her property to the Ontario Heritage Trust, my great-aunt Doris wanted not only to preserve the land and buildings – which she built herself – but also to help preserve the importance of art and culture in Ontario and Canada. This retreat will provide an inspirational facility for artists and their creative work. Our family and Doris's many friends are so pleased that the property will be retained and used for future generations."
> – *Beth McCarthy, Doris McCarthy's great-niece*

With the passing of Doris McCarthy on November 25, 2010, the country lost a revered and talented artist, best known for her landscape paintings. McCarthy's artworks showcase her love of travel, depicting scenery from across the world, particularly Canada's Arctic. Another part of her remarkable legacy is Fool's Paradise – the Scarborough property where she lived – which McCarthy generously donated to the Ontario Heritage Trust before her death.

Born in Calgary in 1910, McCarthy came to Toronto at the age of three. Originally, she planned to be a writer, but after enrolling in an art course at the Ontario College of Art in her teens, she was awarded a full-time scholarship. While there, several members of the Group of Seven were among her mentors and teachers.

In 1939, McCarthy bought a picturesque 12-acre (4.9-hectare) property on the Scarborough Bluffs overlooking Lake Ontario. She paid $1,250 for it, which her mother viewed as an extravagance, referring to "that fool's paradise of yours." The name Fool's Paradise stuck. She designed the house and its additions, and eventually made it her full-time home.

Fool's Paradise is also an important natural heritage site. The property is perched on a narrow plateau of the ecologically sensitive and geologically significant Scarborough Bluffs. The bluffs and the adjoining Bellamy Ravine – the watershed for a large part of Scarborough – contain deep-stream forested gullies providing habitat for regionally rare plant species, shore birds and small animals.

To help conserve the property, McCarthy donated seven acres (2.8 hectares) to the Metropolitan Toronto Region Conservation Authority under an Erosion Control Agreement in 1986. In her honour, the nature trail running through Bellamy Ravine on the east of the property was officially named the Doris McCarthy Trail by the City of Toronto in 2001.

In 1998, McCarthy donated the remainder of Fool's Paradise to the Ontario Heritage Trust, along with a charitable remainder trust to maintain the property in perpetuity. She retained a life tenancy, with the intent that after her death it would become a retreat for artists, musicians and writers, and a setting for heritage activities.

"She was a remarkable woman who took great care in planning her estate," said Richard Moorhouse, the Trust's Executive Director, who negotiated the agreement with McCarthy. "She has created a legacy for many to enjoy in the future."

As family, friends and fans mourn her passing, it is also a time to celebrate McCarthy's life and achievements. In the coming year, the Trust will be planning the retreat McCarthy envisioned – giving other artists the opportunity to be inspired by Fool's Paradise, just as she was herself. When information about the retreat is available, it will be posted at www.heritagetrust.on.ca.

Catrina Colme is a Senior Marketing and Communications Specialist at the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Exploring the Trent-Severn Waterway

By Dennis Carter-Edwards

The original marine railway built at Big Chute
Photo courtesy of the Trent-Severn Waterway Archives

Lock 18 at Hastings at the turn of the century
Photo courtesy of the Trent-Severn Waterway Archives

Built over a period of 87 years, the Trent-Severn Waterway stretches 386 kilometres across the heartland of the province, linking Lake Ontario with Georgian Bay. Originally conceived as a communication route to open the interior of the Newcastle District for settlement, the government authorized construction of a series of locks and dams along the Trent River and through Kawartha Lakes.

With the outbreak of the 1837 Rebellions, funds were reallocated to defend the border from raids by rebels and American sympathizers. Without regular payments, contractors defaulted and construction on the locks ground to a halt. With the creation of the Government of Canada in 1841 and the establishment of a Board of Works to supervise public projects, work resumed on the locks. By 1844, five locks were in operation.

To support the growing lumber industry, focus shifted from lock construction to building timber slides to move the massive logs from the Kawartha and Haliburton regions and the sawn lumber to markets south and overseas. Following Confederation in 1867, the national government directed its resources to developing a transcontinental railway scheme. Ontario took the lead in new lock construction, building locks at Rosedale, Lindsay and Young's Point under the direction of the chief engineer, Kivas Tully.

By the 1880s, a growing interest in expanding the system of locks, dams and canal cuts resulted in the creation of the Trent Valley Canal Association under the leadership of Mossom Boyd, a prominent lumber merchant and navigation company owner. The Association was successful in lobbying the government to build additional locks at Fenelon Falls, Buckhorn and Burleigh Falls.

Before considering additional expansion of the Trent Valley Canal, as it became known, a Royal Commission was appointed in 1888 to study the matter. In a report released just prior to the 1891 election, the commissioners recommended expanding the system. With an eye to electoral results as much as the economics of canal construction, the government formally accepted the recommendations and announced new lock construction to link Lake Simcoe with Rice Lake. Included in this phase of canal construction was the innovative hydraulic lift lock at Peterborough and Kirkfield.

The engineer placed in charge of this work was R.B. Rogers, a Peterborough native who examined lift locks in Britain and Europe before finalizing the design of the locks for the Trent Canal. Rogers envisaged a barge canal system from Georgian Bay to Lake Ontario that would bring the rich harvest of Prairie wheat to overseas markets with quicker dispatch than the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River route. Apart from the innovation of the Peterborough Lift Lock to ensure a quick transfer over the 19.8-metre elevation difference, Rogers also introduced the first Canadian use of concrete in lock construction along the Peterborough to Lakefield Division.

The 1896 election of the Liberals, who had opposed the canal scheme, brought the Trent Valley Canal Association back into action. As municipal leaders along the route descended on Ottawa for a meeting with Prime Minister Laurier, they convinced the government to continue with expansion of the system. The Minister of Railways and Canals announced construction of locks and dams ostensibly to open navigation from Lake Ontario to Rice Lake, but in reality to establish federal jurisdiction of the Trent River and control of its valuable hydro electric sites. In 1905, the provincial Conservatives under J.P. Whitney swept to power on the promise of public ownership of hydro electricity. The federal Liberals, however, were proponents of private-sector development of hydro sites and opposed Whitney's plans.

The final section of the canal – from Lake Simcoe through Lake Couchiching and the Severn River to Port Severn – was authorized by Borden's Conservative government just before the First World War. As that war continued, pressure on manpower and material resulted in delays and compromises for lock construction. Marine railways at Big Chute and Swift Rapids were installed as temporary measures. While the marine railway continues in use at Big Chute, a new modern lock replaced the railway at Swift Rapids in the 1960s. A small pleasure craft, the Irene, was the first vessel to sail the entire route during the 1920 navigation season. Visions of a viable commercial barge canal were replaced by a thriving recreational waterway, recognized in 1929 as a site of national historic importance.

Today, the Trent-Severn Waterway is managed by Parks Canada. The diversity of historical assets along the waterway – from world-class engineering works and architecturally significant buildings to archaeological sites that attest to human presence for more than 8,000 years – offers visitors the ability to create memorable experiences. The critical water management regime that is an integral part of the operation of the Trent-Severn Waterway provides water for personal, commercial and recreational uses. It is a challenge to manage these multifaceted resources and expectations in a manner that assures the legacy will continue unimpeded to future generations. But it is a challenge that the staff of the Trent-Severn Waterway are willing to assume.

Dennis Carter-Edwards is the Cultural Resource Specialist for the Trent-Severn Waterway National Historic Site of Canada.

The Peterborough Lift Lock, an engineering marvel
Photo courtesy of the Trent-Severn Waterway Archives

GUEST COLUMNIST

Recovering from Disaster

By Jim Leonard

On the afternoon of July 14, 2004, the skies opened up over the city of Peterborough. Throughout the day, evening and especially overnight, the city was battered by a non-stop deluge of heavy, driving rain. The municipal storm sewer system was quickly overwhelmed.

In a 24-hour period, almost 240 millimetres of rain fell on a city that prior to 2002, (when Peterborough endured a much less severe flood) had never experienced any flooding at all – at least not since local weather statistics were first kept. Normally, only about 67 millimetres of rain falls in Peterborough for the entire month of July. Almost four times that volume fell in just one day during the 2004 flood.

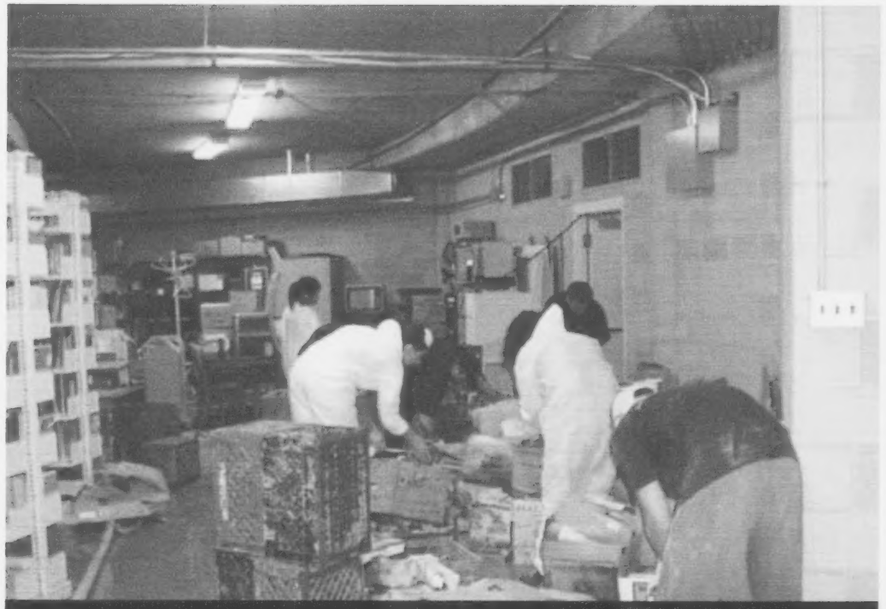
The impact of the flood was widespread and devastating. By the morning of July 15, much of the city looked virtually unrecognizable. Streets and basements were heavily flooded as the intense, localized storm progressed. A state of emergency was declared.

The downtown core was hit especially hard. Standing water was over six feet deep in many areas. Streets were impassable.

The Peterborough Public Library, located in the heart of downtown, was heavily damaged. In the early morning hours of July 15, as the rainfall intensified, several heavy plate glass windows on the ground floor shattered under the weight of the flood waters that now engulfed the building. A torrent of sewage-contaminated water and debris spilled into the expansive lower level of the library, cresting to over 12 inches. Flooding impacted the reserve book collection and a nationally significant cultural treasure known as the Balsillie Collection of Roy Studio Images that had only recently been relocated.

The Balsillie Collection comprises over 300,000 historical images, mostly glass plate negatives. It represents a nearly complete body of work generated by Peterborough's Roy Studio, one of Ontario's most accomplished photography businesses. The Roy Studio flourished in Peterborough from 1896 to 1992. It documented every facet of life in an Ontario community for 100 years. Only a small handful of photo collections in Canada are comparable in size, scope and range of subject matter.

For several decades, the massive collection had been housed in a filthy, cave-like storage room in the basement of the old photo studio located just a few blocks from the library. In spring 2000, Jim Balsillie, co-owner of Research in Motion, purchased the collection and donated it to City of Peterborough. Staff with the Peterborough Museum and Archives then launched a painstaking cleaning, packing and relocation effort that took over two months to complete. The entire collection was safely relocated to a climate controlled, 400-square-foot, purpose-built storage facility in the Peterborough Public Library. A comprehensive archival conservation, cataloguing and digitization program was then launched.



Emergency cleanup in the main storage facility of the library's lower level

Charlotte Street in downtown Peterborough

Lower level of the Peterborough Public Library

The morning after the storm, City staff waded into the mess and began to assess the damage. It was determined that only about 10 per cent of the Roy Studio collection (or 30,000 negatives) had been submerged under flood water.

The City immediately called in ROSCO Document Restoration of Montreal and the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) to assist with salvage efforts and emergency planning. All agreed that time was the critical factor. The longer the negatives remained wet, the greater the risk of destruction. Those negatives not directly exposed to flood water faced a dramatic spike in relative humidity, and thus a very high risk of mould infestation.

The wet negatives and related material were removed from the library and placed in freezer trucks. They were slowly frozen to a temperature of minus 20 degrees Celsius to arrest mould growth, then transported to ROSCO facilities in Montreal.

Flood water was pumped out of the library and fans were installed to thwart mould growth. Contaminated drywall, damaged furniture and equipment were removed from the building.

For more than two years, ROSCO completed a careful stabilization of the affected negatives. Although only a small fraction of the total collection was damaged, it still represented several thousand negatives. Innovative conservation techniques were required to salvage such a large volume of fragile material. The negatives were freeze-dried, then cleaned and re-housed. They were returned safely to Peterborough in October 2006.

In the aftermath of the flood, museum staff undertook a comprehensive risk assessment of the library's interim storage site, and installed a walk-in freezer vault at the Museum and Archives to store fragile film negatives from the collection. The most fragile negatives and prints damaged by the flood were digitized to capture and preserve the images.

Due to the quick and well coordinated response by City museum staff and its partners, including Fleming College, the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) and ROSCO, not one image was lost as a result of the 2004 flood.

In March 2007, the Peterborough Museum and Archives received the Canadian Museums Association Award for Outstanding Achievement in Conservation for its ground-breaking rescue and restoration efforts.

Jim Leonard is the Ontario Heritage Act Registrar at the Trust. From 1994 to 2003, he was City Archivist in Peterborough. He coordinated the relocation of the Balsillie Collection of Roy Studio Images and launched the initial phases of conservation, documentation and digitization of the collection.

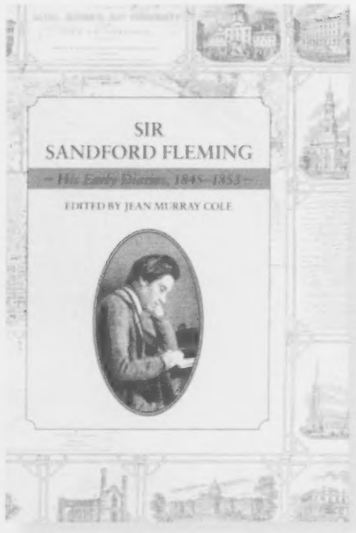
Lower level of the Peterborough Public Library

WHAT'S ON . . .

. . . the shelf

Sandford Fleming: His Early Diaries 1845-1853,
by Jean Cole

Dundurn Press. Sandford Fleming knew fame and many honours later in life. But the path wasn't always easy. His beginnings are revealed in these early diaries (with illustrations from his own talented hand) that record his thoughts as an 18-year-old leaving his family home in Scotland for Canada, and his struggle to get established in his chosen profession.
Accompanied by his brother David, he went first to Peterborough where his father's cousin, Dr. John Hutchison, welcomed the boys to his home (now Hutchison House Museum).



After unsuccessful attempts to secure permanent work as a surveyor in Peterborough and Hamilton, he made important contacts in Toronto, and through his part in founding the Royal Canadian Institute, became connected with the leading architects and engineers in the community. His work on major projects – including an ambitious plan for Toronto Harbour and the Esplanade – ultimately led to his first big railway appointment in 1852 as senior engineer on the Ontario, Simcoe and Lake Huron Railway (later the Northern Railway).

Best known for his major railway-building accomplishments on the Intercolonial, linking central Canada and Halifax, and the Canadian Pacific Railways to the west coast, Fleming was also known for many other innovations: the design of Canada's first adhesive postage stamp, the three-penny Beaver; promotion of the Pacific Cable; and his world renown as the inventor of Standard Time. Fleming was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1897, her Jubilee Year.

The CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM
Le MUSÉE CANADIEN *du* CANOT

. . . at the museum

Adopt an Artifact at the Canadian Canoe Museum

The exhibits at the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough explore how the canoe defines the Canadian character and spirit. Experience a dramatic waterfall on entering, hear creation stories inside a traditional Mi'kmaq wigwam, feel what it was like living as a voyageur during the Fur Trade era, and enjoy the cottaging lifestyles of the early 20th century.

The canoe is the ultimate link to Canada's rich cultural heritage, connecting the people, their past and our unique Canadian landscape. When you visit the museum, you will discover the enduring significance of the canoe to the people of Canada.

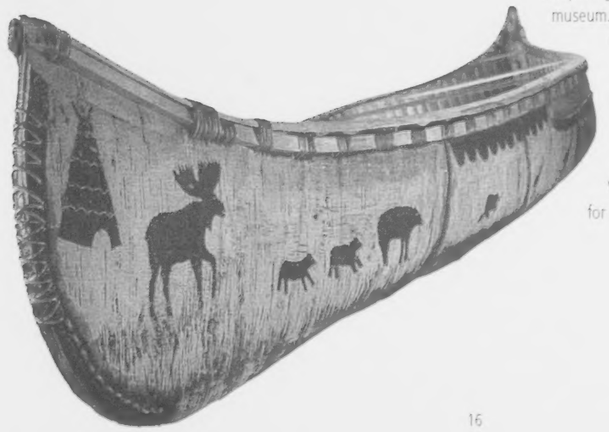
Become part of the Canadian Canoe Museum by adopting one of your favourite artifacts. When you adopt an artifact, you will receive a certificate with a photograph and description of the item you have sponsored. And your name will be displayed on the text panel beside the artifact in the museum's galleries.

The adoption of an artifact makes a great gift – whether for a canoe enthusiast or history buff. After adopting the artifact, visit the museum and see your adoption on display!

This fun, new program allows the museum to engage the public with our compelling collection, while raising important operating funds for the museum. Adoptions are just $15 a month for one year – and can be renewed annually.

Please note that adopting an artifact is a way of raising funds for the museum and does not transfer any actual ownership of the artifact to the adopter.

Visit www.canoemuseum.ca and click on "Adopt a Canoe" for details.

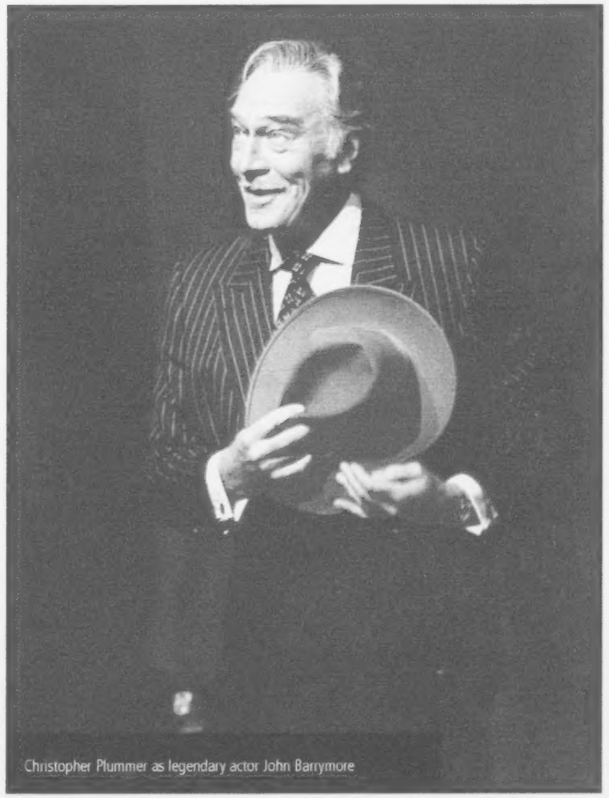


In the coming months . . .

The Ontario Heritage Trust regularly hosts or attends events that impact our rich and unique heritage. From provincial plaque unveilings to conferences, we are busy year-round with activities that promote heritage conservation in Ontario.

Here are some of the events and activities occurring over the next few months. Visit our website at www.heritagetrust.on.ca for more details!

January 27 to March 9, 2011 – Barrymore at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre, Toronto. Christopher Plummer, the two-time Tony and two-time Emmy Award-winning actor will reprise his Tony Award-winning portrayal of the legendary actor John Barrymore in the acclaimed Broadway play, Barrymore, for a limited 30-performance engagement. The entire original creative team of Barrymore will be reunited for the Toronto presentation. For further information or to order tickets, call 416-872-5555 or visit www.ticketmaster.ca.


Christopher Plummer as legendary actor John Barrymore

February 5, 2011 – Official launch of the Fergie Jenkins Commemorative Stamp, Chatham Capitol Theatre. Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site (Dresden), Buxton National Historic Site and the Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society have partnered with the Fergie Jenkins Foundation, Canada Post and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent for the official national launch of Major League Baseball player Fergie Jenkins' commemorative stamp. For more information, visit www.uncletomscabin.org.

February 18, 2011 – The Ontario Heritage Trust launches Heritage Week 2011 at Champlain College, Trent University, in Peterborough. Celebrate Ontario's rich heritage and recognize the important work of local organizations and volunteers during Heritage Week. The launch event will include special presentations, performances and a Heritage Expo.

February 21-27, 2011 – Heritage Week Tours, Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre (Toronto) and Fulford Place (Brockville). These Trust-owned and operated sites will be offering free tours throughout the week. Visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca for schedules.

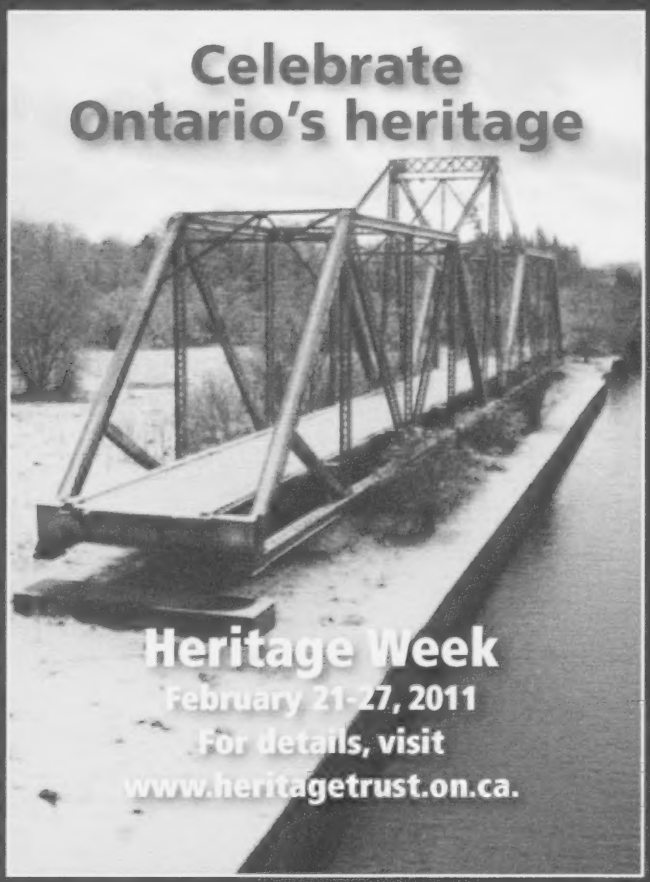
February 21, 2011 – Family Day at Fulford Place, Brockville. Southern Ontario native Nancy MacLeod will present a talk entitled "Victorian Medicine Show."

February 22, 2011 – Talk on James Morrow Walsh, Fulford Place, Brockville. Brian Porter will speak about Brockville local James Morrow Walsh of the North West Mounted Police, famed for his interactions with Sitting Bull.

February 24, 2011 – "From Tin Foil to Stereo, a History of Recorded Sound," a presentation by Bruce Straby, at Fulford Place, Brockville.

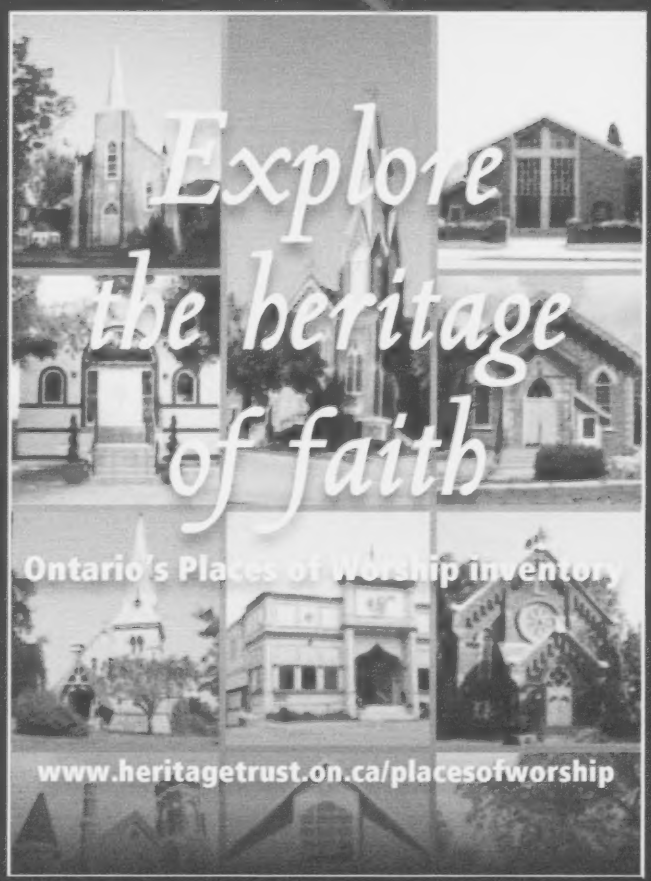
April 30, 2011– Launch of Doors Open Ontario 2011 in Guelph. Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, Doors Open Ontario enables communities across the province to open their commercial buildings, places of worship, gardens and other heritage sites to the public free of charge. Events run from April to October. Visit www.doorsopenontario.on.ca for details of upcoming events in your area. To order a copy of the printed guide (available in April 2011), call 1-800-ONTARIO (668-2746).

April 30, 2011 – Seventh annual Antique Appraisal event with Sotheby's-trained appraiser Janet Carlile, at Fulford Place, Brockville.


Celebrate
Ontario's heritage
Heritage Week
February 21-27, 2011
For details, visit
www.heritagetrust.on.ca.

Doors Open Ontario
2011
10th YEAR
Opening doors in Ontario since 2002
Join us in 2011 as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Doors Open Ontario.
For more information, visit www.doorsopenontario.on.ca.
Look for the Doors Open Ontario Guide in April!

Let our
heritage venues
inspire you
www.heritagetrust.on.ca


Explore
the heritage
of faith
Ontario's Places of Worship Inventory
www.heritagetrust.on.ca/placesofworship